



15th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19 update

We have recently had 5 confirmed cases in Year 7 and Year 8. Following government guidance to the letter, we have identified contacts and their parents and those students are now self-isolating.

There is no doubt that we are seeing another spike in cases. Our numbers are still incredibly low, but the impact even a few confirmed cases can have is high. Please continue with twice-weekly LFD tests and let us know immediately if the result is positive. Please also look out for the symptoms of Covid and keep your child at home if they develop these:

- A high temperature
- A new, persistent cough
- A loss of, or change in, sense of smell and/or taste

The high number of children isolating means that all our live lessons will also be offered through Teams so that children at home can take as active a part as possible. The expectation is that your child should be taking part in lessons if in isolation.

I am very aware that the holidays are about to start (we break up at 14.35 on Tuesday 20th July), and that many families have been hanging on to take a long-awaited break. We will therefore take extra precautions next week and cancel any assemblies or similar. Year 10 students will receive their results during period 6 on Monday; if students are absent they will be emailed.

Children only need to isolate if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. We look at seating plans and talk to students about who they have been in contact with outside lesson time, but it may be that your child feels that they have not been isolated when they should have been. If you feel that your child should be at home, please contact the school office on 01784 457272 or email your child's Head of Year with your reasons. We cannot give out names of students with Covid, but we can confirm whether we believe your child should be isolating. Your child will be X-coded, which does not affect his or her attendance.

For your information, the local secondaries are finishing term this Friday (16th July) with the exception of Bishop Wand (Wednesday 21st July).

The Matthew Arnold School



It is a real shame to be ending the year on this subdued note, but I would much rather that you were all able to enjoy holidays. I will write to you all as usual at the end of term.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Gould'.

Mary Gould
Headteacher